



# thePost



Vol. 83, No. 50

Published for the Fort Dix Community since 1942

December 19, 2008

## NEWSNOTES

### Veterans Administration reps set assistance visit

Representatives from the Veterans Administration will be at Fort Dix Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They will review medical records and assist eligible personnel with completing VA claim forms. Appointments are required. Appointments are limited to retiring Soldiers within 180 days of retirement, and those already retired. To schedule an appointment, call Fay Marshall-Dease at 562-2666.

### Today's issue last Post for 2008

This issue of The Post is the last for 2008. The first issue of 2009 will be published Jan. 9. Information for that issue should be submitted to the Public Affairs Office no later than close of business Jan. 6.

### Checkpoint hours, options posted for installation

Fort Dix has four main checkpoints and one commercial truck gate. They are the Main Gate, more commonly called the 68 Gate since it is on that route; the Pemberton Gate off Pointville Road, the Wrightstown Gate and the Browns Mills Gate.

The commercial truck gate is in Wrightstown right off Saylor's Pond Road. The truck gate's hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., unless special arrangements are made in advance.

The Main, Wrightstown, and Browns Mills Gates are always open, and the Pemberton Gate is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If the Pemberton Gate is closed, the easiest access to port is through Browns Mills to the gate on Texas Avenue.

### Education Center closed for renovations

The Fort Dix Education Center lab located at 5403 Delaware Avenue will be closed due to renovations until Jan. 5, 2009.

For more information call 562-5001.

## WEATHER

**FRIDAY --** Light rain during day, changing to chance of snow showers at night, daytime high of 38 and overnight low of 31 degrees.

**SATURDAY --** Flurries and patchy light drizzle, light breeze with high of 35 degrees and low of 25.

**SUNDAY --** More flurries, chance of sleet, daytime high of 38 and overnight low of 25 degrees.

**MONDAY --** More flurries, breezy into evening with a high of 35 and overnight low of 18.

**TUESDAY --** Cloudy and cold, clearing into evening with a daytime high of 35 degrees and overnight low of 22.

**WEDNESDAY --** Sprinkles, warmer with daytime high of 46 and overnight low of 31 degrees.

**THURSDAY --** Clear and cold, high of 35 degrees and low of 27.

**FRIDAY --** Cloudy in morning, giving way to afternoon sun, breezy through morning, high of 41 and overnight low of 34 degrees.

## Holiday smiles



Courtesy Photo

Kayla Gray shares a Christmas conversation with Santa Marines. The party, held at Club Dix last week, included a Claus at the Hearts Apart Holiday Party for children of visit from the real Santa and Mrs. Claus, games and arts mobilized and deployed Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and and crafts for all ages.

## Exodus nears, 56th rolls in

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

An annual reprieve is in store for trainers and mobilizing Soldiers on Fort Dix.

More than 4,000 Soldiers -- including many from the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, just arrived at Fort Dix for some final brush-up training and processing before deployment -- will be on leave as of Dec. 22 to spend their holiday time with friends and family until Jan. 3, 2009.

On military installations, the break is commonly called Exodus, since most Soldiers and many civilians take off in a wave for visits home.

Not everyone will leave the post. Some people plan to spend the holidays on the ground; some must spend their holidays working, to care for remaining troops and prepare for the onslaught that comes with the new year, but most of the National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who are called to active duty will be able to spend their holidays with their families.

Civilian employees also routinely

take advantage of the down time to take leave and recharge. Some operations also take advantage of empty areas to perform routine maintenance and upgrades to facilities.

Lt. Col. John McKee, Mayor for the Contingency Operating Location (COL, formerly known as the FOB) said, "We're looking forward to the opportunity to send Soldiers home from the COL to the cantonment area so we can conduct needed maintenance on the tents."

The Department of Defense has

once again stressed Soldier safety this year. Everyone leaving the Post for the holidays must attend a safety briefing on using good judgment and common sense while partaking in holiday festivities.

Mostly, Soldiers are encouraged to take care of themselves, enjoy their families, or their time seeing the sights. But enjoy them safely. Don't drink and drive. Don't indulge in risky behaviors.

Soldiering is work enough without adding unnecessary and possibly tragic risks during holiday times.

## E-mail eases pay problem response

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

Civilian employees who have problems with their pay now have a new method of tackling the issues.

The Resource Management Office (RMO) instituted a new Fort Dix civilian pay e-mail Dec. 11 - fdixcivilianpay@conus.army.mil.

The e-mail system was created so that four people now check the incoming messages. Any one of the four can go in and view whatever request

may be sent and ensure it is attended to as quickly as possible.

"The reason we created this, when customers had a problem with their pay they sent an email. If that individual was not present, the e-mail sat in their inbox," said Denise Warlow, management analyst in the manpower and analysis division of the RMO.

"Other representatives did not know that there was anything to be attended to, so things would be delayed."

Warlow said that although the RMO representatives enjoy seeing

people and talking with them, RMO is upgrading customer service by using e-mail. Also, when employees send something in by email, they have a better record of the transaction.

"We want everyone to use this instead of walking in," Warlow said. "It is a good tracking tool with date and time."

Logistically, Warlow added, it is quicker to use e-mail instead of getting into your car and driving over, taking time out of the office. It is a time saver as well as being an excellent tracking method.

"All Fort Dix pay customers are encouraged to initiate communication with the Civilian Pay office via this e-mail box," said Jay Shopp, director, resource management office in the email sent to all Fort Dix employees when the system was launched.

No promises can be made on how quickly issues are resolved, since every issue has its own intricacies. But Warlow said the email system gives immediate notification that a request has been received, as well as ensuring someone sees the emails and quickly puts the reply process into motion.



## Vets honored with holiday remembrance

Civil Air Patrol Cadets Jose Avila, Jimmy Stewart Composite Squadron and Cadet Emily Speziale, Pineland Composite Squadron place a wreath on the grave of Maj. Francis Burke, the only Medal of Honor recipient buried at the Brig. Gen William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown as part of the Wreaths Across America event on Dec. 13. More than 100 wreaths were placed on the graves of veterans by the CAP cadets at the state cemetery, one of a half-dozen wreath events that took place in New Jersey. All were synchronized at noon with the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and across the nation.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven, NJARNG, JFHQ PAO

## year in review



# Economy, elections held sway in America in 2008



Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

The world economy appeared to be in a free fall for the last half of 2008, threatening both the nation's financial structure on Wall Street and smaller businesses on Main Street. The Treasury under Henry Paulson and Congress began to pump billions of dollars back into financial and other institutions in order to rescue them from the near-dead but so far forecasts remain very bleak.

A recession seems to be the very least of what we're facing. With worse luck, a depression on the order of the 1930s could be on its grim way.

In any event, bad economic news dominated the year's events.

In Iraq the surge tactic, an increase of American troops to root out the enemy in specific areas, seemed to be working. But most everyone agreed that lesser casualties rates and a lessening of enemy activity probably indicated a condition that was fragile at best. The United States signed an agreement to withdraw all forces within several years but with a new administration in Washington the pace could pick up quite a bit.

Barack Obama will become the first African-American president next month, a tribute to American democracy that has unleashed justifiable pride in the breasts of many citizens.

President-elect Obama will face a world beset with problems.

Russia invaded Georgia, an old province of the Soviet Union, in a power grab reminiscent of the dark days of the Cold War. Zimbabwe has become a brutal economic and social basket case under the not-so-tender ministrations of dictator Robert Mugabe. Pakistan's President resigned, amid more than occasional assassination attempts and chaos in the tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.

On a more positive note, the Chinese were undoubtedly happy with the success of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. American swimmer Michael Phelps brought home eight gold medals, three which were won in relay events.

Domestically, citizens of the United States witnessed the usual bizarre melange of strange happenings happening to still stranger people under the non-stop glow of a sensationalist media.

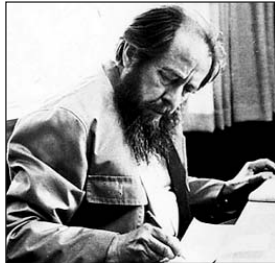
In New York state, Governor Eliot Spitzer, a hard-nosed crime fighter from way back, resigned after getting busted when availing himself of delights available in a prostitution ring, one of whose members hailed from New Jersey.

Authorities in Texas raided the Yearning for Zion Ranch of the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints in April, taking more than 400 children into custody to prevent polygamy and child marriages. Resulting issues between church and state should rage in the courts for quite a while.

Paul McCartney divorced Heather Mills, paying \$49 million for the privilege. Jenna Bush, 26, wed an M.B.A. student at her father's ranch in Texas, forging a White House marriage.

Belgium's largest brewer InBev, producer of Stella Artois beer, became the world's largest brewer when they bought the revered Anheuser-Busch company, maker of Budweiser.

And the Phillies won the 2008 World Series. Wonders never cease!



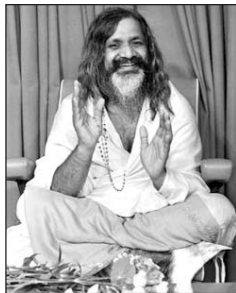
AP

**Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, 1918-2008**  
With the possible exception of George Orwell, no writer influenced the course of history in his time as much as Solzhenitsyn. His powerful volumes about Soviet gulags and other great injustices helped wear away that dreadful empire, whose nightmare existence marred most of the 20th century.



thesixbells.blogspot.com  
**William F. Buckley Jr., 1925-2008**

He masterminded the conservative intellectual revolt that gave America Goldwater, Reagan and the Bushes. Buckley's *National Review* magazine became a bible for the right and a pain in liberal sides.



Trevor Dallen

**Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, 1917-2008**

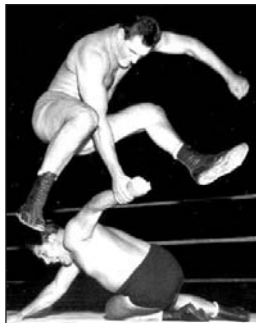
The Beatles made Maharishi Yogi famous when they reported that he was their guru. Although the holy man promoted Transcendental Meditation (TM) - exploring consciousness through meditation and chanting - to the tune of transforming it into a multibillion-dollar global enterprise, somehow the mystical, spiritual experience seemed to get sidetracked amid stacks of dollars. Easy to poke fun at, TM nevertheless survived the 1960s, outlasting numerous competitors to remain in the search for nirvana in a New Age.



www.fadedyouthblog.com

**Tim Russert, 1950-2008**

Journalist, lawyer, one-time aide to famed U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D., N.Y.), Tim Russert moderated NBC's "Meet the Press," for more than 16 years, proving that journalists could provide concise, accurate information without bias that also entertained. In his latter years, he wrote of growing up in Buffalo, N.Y., of his love affair with family, faith and father in the best-seller, "Big Russ." The book was as honest and as perceptive as the man himself.



www.killerkowalski.com/~killer\_gallery.htm

**Walter "Killer" Kowalski, 1927-2008**

In his prime, Killer Kowalski stood six-foot-six and weighed a rock-hard 275 pounds. And there was not a kind bone in his lean and mean persona. A villain in pro wrestling arenas, Kowalski could be considered to be enlightened in his private life. He was a religious vegetarian who enjoyed classical music, philosophy and photography. Kowalski may have remained a ring non-entity but he accidentally sliced off one of Yukon Eric's ears off in one ring battle after he came flying down off the ropes. "My shinbone grazed his cheek," Kowalski remembered. "His ear went flying across the ring." Pro wrestling fans, hardly a discerning breed, thought Kowalski had done the deed purposely and henceforth named him "Killer." He wasn't but, in the ring, played the game.



www.pleasantdancetime.com/cydcharisse.htm

**Cyd Charisse, 1922-2008**

The former Tula Ellice Finklea from Amarillo, Texas, had two things going for her. She was beautiful and could dance up a storm. In a film career that peaked in the 1950s, Cyd matched heavyweights in Hollywood musicals including "The Harvey Girls" with Judy Garland (1946), "Singin' in the Rain" with Gene Kelly (1952), "The Bandwagon" with Fred Astaire (1953), "Brigadoon" with Gene Kelly again (1954), "It's Always Fair Weather" with Gene Kelly (1956) and "Silk Stockings" with Fred Astaire (1957). She was a giant who danced with the same.



holdinitdown.wordpress.com

**Issac Hayes, 1942-2008**

He was the singer/songwriter whose "Theme from Shaft" won Academy Awards and Grammys alike in 1970. Issac Hayes was also a pretty fair actor, holding his own with James Garner in "The Rockford Files" and doing the voice over in the role Chef on "South Park." The soulful singer was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002.



Getty Images

**Jo Stafford, 1917-2008**

Jo Stafford was among the great ballad singers and sang pop songs with the same aplomb with which she mastered folk music, country songs and novelty tunes. One still recalls sultry strains from "Jambalaya," a particularly memorable rendition. Stafford performed in many troop shows during World War II and Korea. Although shy and not especially good-looking, Jo belted out songs that came straight from the heart. Her singing made servicemen overseas glad that they were Americans.

## the post

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# Overseas U.S. military operations make America safer, Bush says

*American Forces Press Service* — WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 2008 — Military operations launched in Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11 brought the fight to terrorists and, with other initiatives, are helping to safeguard America against another attack. President George W. Bush told military and civilian students at the Army War College today.

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States revealed gaps in the nation's homeland security system and intelligence-gathering network, said Bush, who traveled to Carlisle, Pa., to address members of the college's class of 2009. The school prepares selected senior officers and civilians for increased rank and responsibilities.

"So, we launched the largest reorganization of the federal government since the beginning of the Cold War, with one overriding purpose, and that was to prevent new attacks," Bush said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security was established as part of the reorganization, Bush said, as well as the National Counterterrorism Center, which works with 16 different federal agencies to track any new terrorist threat.

However, that still wasn't enough, Bush said. "Secondly, we recognized that even with the best defenses, we could not afford to wait for the terrorists to attack again," Bush said. "So, we launched a global campaign to take the fight to the terrorists abroad, to dismantle their networks, to dry up their financing and find their leaders and bring them to justice."

The message, Bush said, is "America will make no distinction between terrorists and those who harbor them." Soon after 9/11, he said, the militant Islamic fundamentalists known as the Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan at the time and were allowing terrorists to operate on their soil, were told to turn over the al-Qaida leaders who had plotted the attack.

Bush said the Taliban's leaders refused to cooperate. So, when the Taliban "made their choice, we made ours," Bush said. "We removed the Taliban from power, we shut down the terrorist training camps, and we liberated more than 25 million Afghans."

The terrorist attacks on America also caused U.S. leaders to re-examine the situation

in Iraq, then under the iron rule of dictator Saddam Hussein, Bush said. Under Saddam, he said, Iraq had supported terrorists, developed and used weapons of mass destruction, threatened its neighbors, committed routine attacks on American forces and violated U.N. resolutions.

"I concluded that the world could not tolerate such a destabilizing and dangerous force in the heart of the Middle East," Bush said. "I offered Saddam Hussein a final chance to resolve the issue peacefully."

Saddam, just as the Taliban had, refused to cooperate, Bush said, and so, "we acted with a coalition of nations to protect our people and liberate 25 million Iraqis."

Bush said he also realized that America needed "to counter the terrorists' hateful ideology with a more hopeful alternative based on liberty and justice" to win the war on terrorism.

"So, after removing the threatening regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, we refused to take the easy course of trading one strongman for another," Bush said. "Instead, we stayed to help young

democracies emerge as beacons of hope for people across the Middle East, and increased our support for democratic reformers and dissidents around the world."

Bush said people can debate the decisions he has made as president. Yet, there's no question, he said, that America has been kept safe following 9/11.

"Here at home, we've prevented numerous terrorist attacks, including a plot to blow up fuel tanks at JFK [International] airport [in New York], a plot to blow up airliners bound for the East Coast, a scheme to attack a shopping mall in the Chicago area, and a plan to destroy the tallest skyscraper in Los Angeles," Bush said.

No one knows how many lives have been saved by the thwarting of those terrorist plots, Bush said. What's certain, he said, is there has not

been another terrorist attack on the American homeland since Sept. 11, 2001.

Meanwhile, America and its allies are driving terrorists from their safe havens and severely disrupting their operations and financial networks, Bush said.

Hundreds of al-Qaida's leaders have been killed or captured during worldwide anti-terror operations, Bush said, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the architect of the 9/11 attacks.

Thanks to the surge of forces in Iraq, Bush said, U.S., coalition and Iraqi forces have "delivered a devastating blow to al-Qaida, in the land Osama bin Laden once called the central battleground in the war on terror."

Millions of Afghan and Iraqi citizens today now vote for their political leaders during free, democratic elections, Bush said.

Citizens worldwide in countries like Liberia, Lebanon, Georgia and Ukraine "have taken to the streets to cast off the chains of tyranny and demand their God-given right for freedom," Bush said. Today, he noted, more people

live in freedom than at any other time in human history. Yet, the global war against terrorism "will be a generational conflict" that will continue long after his presidency ends, Bush said. However, he added, his administration leaves behind the institutions and tools the United States needs to prevail.

FBI agents are focused now on thwarting any terrorist threats against the homeland, Bush said. In addition, he said, the Treasury Department is involved in shutting down terrorist financial conduits, human intelligence gathering capabilities have improved at the CIA, and the National Security Agency has expanded operations to monitor terrorist communications.

Additionally, new military technologies and resources are being employed to keep the pressure on the enemy, Bush

said. "With weapons like the Predator drone or our arsenal, our troops can conduct precision strikes on terrorists in hard-to-reach areas while sparing innocent life," Bush pointed out. The Predator is an unmanned aircraft system.

Meanwhile, senior military and civilian students at places like the War College "are studying new counterterrorism and counterterrorism strategies," Bush said. Future presidents, he said, will benefit from what these students have learned.

Today, a coalition of more than 90 nations is coming to combating terror and sharing intelligence, Bush said. This coalition, he said, includes Saudi Arabia, a country that produced many of the 9/11 hijackers and now serves as a staunch U.S. ally in the war on terror.

Other U.S.-sponsored initiatives, Bush said, seek to reduce the number of nuclear arms in the world as well as preventing terrorists from obtaining and using weapons of mass destruction.

Ongoing programs such as the provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan and Iraq help to change the conditions of suffering and hopelessness that give rise to extremism and terror, Bush said, and millions of Africans are receiving medical aid through the U.S. Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief program.

The 9/11 attacks on America, Bush said, determined the course of his presidency. "That day defined my presidency," Bush said, adding it also "changed the course of history."

While the path ahead cannot be known for sure, Bush said, America and its allies "can be confident in the destination: a world where the American people are safe, children around the world grow up with hope and peace."

Freedom is a universal human desire, Bush said, as well as a gift bestowed by God. "Americans can feel confident about their future, he said, because "we're blessed with men and women who willingly put the welfare of their nation before themselves."

"As long as we have defenders of such character and courage, our nation will always be in good hands," Bush continued, "and the future will always be bright."

## POLICE LOG

Police Log is a weekly synopsis of significant police activities developed from reports, complaints, incidents or information received and actions taken, for the week of Dec. 8 through 14.

The abbreviation DoD stands for Department of Defense; NAFD means Not Affiliated with Fort Dix (the subject doesn't live or work here); NCIC stands for National Crime Information Center; DWI means Driving While Intoxicated; CDS means Controlled Drug Substance; POV means Privately Owned Vehicle; MAFB stands for McGuire Air Force Base; USAF EC stands for US Air Force Expeditionary Center; AHCC stands for Ambulatory Health Care Clinic (MAFIB); VMHHC stands for Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County; CP# stands for Checkpoint Number.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a CO alarm in the Garden Terrace housing area.

Investigation revealed the heater had caused the alarm. United Communities was notified.

●During a routine traffic stop on Juliustown Road, police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license.

The subject was cited and the vehicle released to a licensed driver.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5435.

Investigation revealed a water pipe had broken causing major water damage to the building.

The building was temporarily shut down to personnel due to hazardous conditions and work crews responded.

●During a credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via the Wrightstown Gate, police discovered the vehicle, operated by Airman assigned to McGuire AFB, was unregistered.

The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a strong smell of gas at Bldgs. 5240 and 6053. A check for gas leaks met with negative results.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 4455. Investigation revealed the alarm was faulty. A work order was placed.

●While processing a visitor at the Visitor Center, police discovered the individual, a civilian NAFD, had two outstanding warrants out of Easthampton Township.

The subject was transported to the police station for processing and transferred to the custody of the Burlington County Jail.

●Police responded to a report of obscene verbal communication at Bldg. 6738.

Investigation revealed a Fort Dix contract employee was having verbal arguments with his supervisor.

The subject was suspended until further notice and escorted off post. Investigation continues.

●During a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP 9, police discovered the vehicle operator, a civilian NAFD, had two outstanding warrants from Ocean County.

The subject was transported to the police station for processing and transferred to the custody of the Ocean County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

●During a routine credential check of a vehicle attempting to enter the installation via CP 9, police discovered the operator, a civilian NAFD, had a suspended driver's license.

The subject was cited and the vehicle towed from the scene.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a gas leak at Bldg. 5640. Investigation revealed a pilot light had gone out. The gas was shut off and a work order placed.

●Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a fire alarm at Bldg. 5518. Investigation revealed the alarm activated for unknown reasons.

●Police responded to a report of simple assault consummated with a battery at Bldg. 5952.

Investigation revealed two Fort Dix contract employees had engaged in a verbal confrontation which escalated to assault when objects were thrown by both parties.

The subjects were cited. Investigation continues.

●There were two expired identification cards confiscated during the period.

●There were seven Magistrate Court Citations issued for the period.



**Army Community Service (ACS)**  
562-2767  
Bldg. 5201, on the corner of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue  
**Hours of Operation:**  
**Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
*"A Department of the Army Accredited Soldier and Family Service Organization"*  
Looking for information and assistance? ACS is here to serve you. ACS serves all military branches of service, DoD civilian personnel and retirees. The ACS Center is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**NCO Call**  
at Club Dix  
Wednesday evenings  
at 6 p.m.

## Resources offer outlets for voicing concerns, complaints

**Capt. Nick Mitchell**  
Staff Judge Advocate

When things are not working out the way you want in New Jersey, here is a list of resources to contact or file a complaint with. Hopefully, you can get things fixed up the way you want them to be.

**Department of Banking and Insurance**  
**Bureau of Securities Regulation**

20 West State Street  
PO Box 325  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Fax: 609-292-5571  
www.njdobi.org

**Dept. of Military and Veterans Services**

Human Services Facility  
795 Woodlane Road  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
Mailing Address: PO Box 6000  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060-6000  
609-265-5008  
Fax: 609-265-3184

**www.co.burlington.nj.us/departments/**  
The above website hooks you into all Governmental departments of Burlington County, including Veterans, TRICARE North Region.

**McGuire AFB Clinic TRICARE Service Center**

3458 Neeley Road  
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641  
1-877-874-2273  
www.hnfs.net

**Board of Public Utilities**

2 Gateway Center  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-648-2026

1-800-624-0241  
www.bpu.state.nj.us

**Burlington County Office of Consumer Affairs/ New Jersey Division of Taxation**

Weights and Measures  
49 Rancocas Road  
PO Box 6000  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
Weights & Measure: 609-265-5098  
Consumer Affairs: 609-265-5054  
Fax: 609-265-5065  
consumer@co.burlington.nj.us

**New Jersey Division of Taxation**

Information and Publications Branch  
PO Box 281  
Trenton, NJ 08695-0281  
609-826-4400  
1-800-323-4400  
Homestead Rebate Program  
1-877-658-2971  
Business Taxes Telefile Service  
1-877-829-2866  
TaxFax Service (have tax forms faxed to you - use your fax machine's telephone only) 609-826-4500  
Taxpayer Customer Service Center: 609-292-6400  
www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/

**U.S. Social Security Administration**

Evergreen Plaza  
1710 Route 38  
Mount Holly, NJ 08640  
1-800-772-1213  
www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservice  
NJ's County of Burlington  
**Medicare/Medicaid**  
New Jersey Medicaid Call Center  
1-800-356-1561

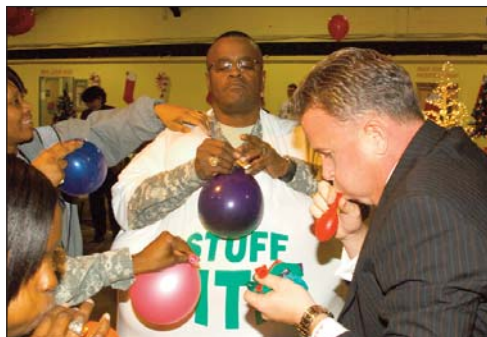
## Armed Forces Comm



# Dixans celebrate holidays in style



photos by Ryan Morton



**HUMAN TALENT** -- Ioan Veniamin's Human Slinky performs a momentary pose center stage as it rolls, sprawls, spills and dances across the floor, left. During the balloon stuffing contest, Director of Human Resources Military Henry Melon-Lopez blows up a balloon to fill Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Young's air-puffed T-shirt, above. During the human tic-tac-toe contest Sgt. Maj. Young and 1st Lt. Antonia Greene stand in the center squares, gesturing to Melon-Lopez to move quickly to the coveted square. After several tries the yellow team finally wins five games to four, below.



**PARTY ON** -- Fort Dix employees perform various line dances during the installation holiday party, Dec. 11, top. Crystal Martinez poses during the human Christmas tree competition. Teams had two minutes to decorate a teammate and the most decorative "human tree" was the winner.

## Commander sends holiday message

Holiday gatherings are a time-honored tradition in America. The opportunity to spend time with family and friends is one we treasure. Unfortunately, many of America's Armed Forces service members and civilians will be separated from loved ones during this holiday season.

Operational missions and deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kosovo, and the Horn of Africa have many Armed Forces service members on guard halfway around the world. Here at Fort Dix, training and mobilization take precedence over holiday celebrations. But the hardships we endure during times like these help us truly appreciate the blessings we share as Americans.

Freedom endures -- and it is freedom for which we must be truly thankful. Among all the values we cherish - loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor and personal courage - the foundation is freedom. Service members returning from duty overseas have seen firsthand what happens when freedom is denied. Religious and ethnic intolerance take over. Violence becomes the norm. Life is replaced by the struggle to survive. We have all seen terror and carnage wrought by those who value power over freedom -- nations ruled by fear and people crushed by persecution, poverty, and indifference.

This year, wherever we celebrate the holidays, let us be grateful for those who sacrifice to bring peace and freedom to all corners of the globe. Remember and embrace the families of our deployed Armed Forces service members this holiday season.

**Col. Ronald R. Thaxton**  
Commander, Fort Dix



**GREETINGS FROM CAMP DIX** -- This holiday post card was sent from Pvt. Adam Andrews at Camp Dix to his sister in Trenton just before Christmas 1917. Sentimental greetings and pictures reflected the nation's early views of World War I, and were readily available to Soldiers through the YMCA and other service organizations. Postage was two cents, giving rise the phrase "two cents' worth" for a person's opinion. The staff of the Public Affairs Office would like to join Pvt. Andrews in wishing everyone happy and safe holidays. The Post will return to publication with the Jan. 9, 2009 issue.



# NEIGHBORHOOD

## THE CORNER



### Holiday Hours

#### Griffith Field House

Dec. 23 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Dec. 24-26 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 27-30 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Dec. 31-Jan. 2 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Bowling Center

Dec. 23 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Dec. 24-25 closed  
Dec. 26 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Dec. 27 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Dec. 28 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Dec. 31 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
ONLY OPEN FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY (ticketed event)  
Jan. 1 closed

#### Club Dix

Dec. 24-25 closed  
Dec. 26-30 Computer Lab only  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 31-Jan. 1 closed  
Jan. 2-4 Computer Lab only  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Golf (Weather Permitting)

Dec. 23 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 24-25 closed  
Dec. 26-30 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 31-Jan. 1 closed

#### Arts & Crafts

Dec. 25-29 closed  
Dec. 30-31 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Jan. 1 Closed

#### Aquatics

Dec. 23 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 24 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 27 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 28 closed  
Dec. 29-30 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 31 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Jan. 1 Closed  
Jan. 2 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Jan. 3 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Recreation Center

Dec. 23-26 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Dec. 27-28 noon - 10 p.m.  
Dec. 29-31 4 p.m. - 10:20 p.m.  
Jan. 1 noon - 10 p.m.  
Jan. 2 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Jan. 3 noon - 10 p.m.

#### CVS (Child Dev. Center, School Age Services, Youth Center & Teen Center)

Dec. 25-26 closed  
Jan. 1-2 closed

#### Equipment Rental Center

Dec. 23-24 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 27-28 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Dec. 29-31 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Jan. 1 closed  
Jan. 2 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Jan. 3 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Range 14

Dec. 23 closed  
Dec. 24 1 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Dec. 25-26 closed  
Dec. 27-28 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Dec. 29-Jan. 2 closed  
Jan. 3 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Hunter Registration

Dec. 23-24 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26-31 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Jan. 1 closed  
Jan. 2-3 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Commissary

Dec. 24 5:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 closed  
Dec. 31 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Jan. 1 closed

#### BX/PX

Dec. 24 5:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dec. 31 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Jan. 1 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Burger King

Dec. 24 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Dec. 31 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Jan. 1 closed

#### Clothing Sales

Dec. 24 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Dec. 25 closed  
Dec. 26 closed  
Dec. 31 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Jan. 1 closed

## Safety knows no holiday

Wayne Cook  
Public Affairs Staff

Members of the military services often have to sacrifice their holidays with their families to ensure the mission is completed. A fact often overlooked, is police officers and firefighters also give up their holidays with their loved ones in order to provide safety and security to the community.

Each year when the special times of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa roll around there is a special group of citizens who stand watch over the community. They are the first responders.

Firefighters and police officers man their posts 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to ensure the rest of the community can enjoy their holidays.

This time of year crime seems to climb a bit with the lure of presents all around and the increased amount of cash people tend to carry with them. Some people also tend to enjoy their parties a bit more than they should and drink and drive. This creates a hazard not only to themselves but everyone else on the roadways. This keeps the police busy.

On the same note, with candles and lights on trees and overloaded electric outlets, the chance of fires rises exponentially. Also, ice and snow and all manner of possibilities for automobile accidents or injuries at home keep firefighters and police officers busy with emergency responses.

Thus this is a very busy time of the year for two occupations that rarely get recognized for their time and service to the community.

"We make sure the mission continues to run and the community is kept safe. We support the Soldiers who can't go home. Our officers sacrifice their holiday time with their families to make sure we all stay safe," said Department of Defense Police Lt. Richard Sanders.

The post entry control points remain manned at all times and

police officers patrol the streets and neighborhoods to deter mischief makers and to respond to emergency calls. Long hours in the weather on the gates can make for a long holiday but the sense of mission drives the men and women of the Police Department on through the shift.

"Working the holidays is part of the job. This is what we do. This year our squad will work Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day. Next year we will rotate and get the holidays off," said Police Officer Tom Houck.

For the men and women in blue and their civilian co-workers, working the holidays is a way of life and most of the satisfaction derived from the job comes from within.

Betty Craig, a civilian dispatcher with the police, said, "We have to share our holidays with our co-workers. We are a 24-hour operation and it's not like we can close up shop. We try to alternate holidays off with other staff members, making sure there is someone always here to cover the shift."

"I spend my family-time with my family before I start my shift in the afternoon. You learn to work around your shift. Sometimes you have to celebrate the day before or after the holiday, but it works out," she added.

"Our single officers make sure the married officers get to spend the time with their families by covering their shifts for them. It's also a huge help when the chief takes time to call and wish everyone a happy holiday. That goes a long way with the troops. The bottom line is the mission comes first," Sanders said.

"I think the public appreciates our sacrifice. They are sympathetic to our cause which is taking care of them. The command staff on the squad takes care of the officers on duty. They make sure we get holiday meals. They're real good to the officers on the squad," said Houck.

Firefighters, like police officers, must provide around-the-clock coverage. This means a lot of holiday festivities take place at the firehouse



Wayne Cook

**ON THE JOB --** Police Officer Richard Leon, Department of Defense Police Department, monitors traffic at the Wrightstown Entry Control Point, Dec. 2. Police officers man the checkpoints and patrol the post 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide security for the entire installation.

rather than at home. Families gather at the firehouse to share in holiday meals and fun with the children.

"My wife likes it when I work Thanksgiving because she comes here to eat dinner and visit with the other families," said Firefighter Brian Pearsall.

"For firefighters, we work year round and don't think anything of having to work on the holidays. They

are treated like any other day except we have our families in for meals and celebration. We expect to work and realize most people don't even know we are here," said Fire Capt. Lenny Dotson.

"We look forward to coming together and visiting with each other and our families. We enjoy spending the holidays together," added Firefighter Dave Neil.

## Teens garner academic honors



courtesy photo

**ARMY SMART --** Fifteen Members of the Pemberton Township High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) were recognized for their academic achievements last week.

Fifteen members of the Pemberton Township High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) were recognized for their academic achievements at a ceremony in their honor last week. The students received the JROTC National Academic Wreath in recognition of achieving an A average in JROTC and at least a B average in all other classes.

"We're extremely proud of these students and pleased they can set such a fine example for all of our students," said Pemberton Township High School principal Richard Nolan.

Receiving the Academic Wreath Achievement Insignia were seniors Jorge Colon, Ashley Rodgers, Vincent Rossetti (third year award), Ariel Sears (second year award) and John Casciano; juniors Stephanie Brown, Jason Price, Christian Zukowski (second year award), Jonathan Melendez and Jeannie Chambers (second year award) and sophomores Alexander Adams, Ruben Ford, Anita Pamplin, Michael Pinciro and Britnie Smith.

The Pemberton Township High School JROTC is an exemplary unit, as noted by its 2007-2008 designation as an Honor Unit with Distinction. Awarded by the United States Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps, this award is the highest unit level rating possible in Army JROTC. The program prepares high school students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens.

Over 100 members strong, the Pemberton Township JROTC is active in community service, school support, and has an award winning Drill Team, Color Guard, and Air Rifle Team.

## Santa makes special trip to Dix



Jennifer Chupko

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN --** Santa Claus and the Fort Dix Fire Department will be visiting the Fort Dix housing area on Dec. 21.

Jennifer Chupko  
Public Affairs Staff

"Party continues despite flames" is what the Star newspaper read Dec. 26, 1929, after a fire in the White House's West Wing was snuffed out by dedicated firemen. Those firefighters put their holiday second to safety.

The firefighters saved the day and spared the nation's first house from a great holiday conflagration. This act of festive fortitude may explain why Santa is so comfortable parading in a fire truck every year.

Once again, Santa will be riding around the Fort Dix housing area in a fire truck Dec. 21 and making sure he specifically visits the houses with special needs children.

"It's really important that the special needs children know we haven't forgotten them," said Frank Malanga, Fort Dix Fire Department

president, Local F-115. "And it's important for the housing community kids, 'cause that's what the holidays are all about."

At 4 p.m. the fire truck will head towards the housing area.

With sirens wailing and lights a-blinking, Santa will arrive in grand fashion.

Not only will Santa be escorted down the streets by firefighters in full uniform, but the firefighters will also have a hand in spreading the holiday spirit by handing out candy canes.

"We are one Army, one community, here at Fort Dix," said Malanga. "It's a great time for the housing community to get together, to celebrate the things this season brings."

To register a special needs child for a visit with Santa and the Fort Dix Fire Department, send the child's name and address to fordixsan-tarun2008@yahoo.com.

## Retires after 23 years on Dix

# Heard helped Human Resources remain humane

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

She's a civil servant who came late to the workplace, an Army wife who's moved her family more than a few times, a mother to the mayor born, a celebrated chef and a dedicated Dixan who, at first, never thought she would like it here.

She's Patricia A. Heard, Human Resources assistant at Human Resources - Military (HRM) on Fort Dix who's spent 23 years working here and is retiring at the end of the month.

Heard has made many friends here and her departure means another loss of institutional knowledge riding off into the sunset. She will be missed.

"I have known Mrs. Heard for the past 11-and-a-half years and can honestly state that she is one of the nicest and most knowledgeable persons who work in HRM," informs Edward Vannozzi, an HRM administrator.

"I enjoyed talking with her and have enjoyed her spirited sense of humor," Vannozzi says. "She has always displayed a positive attitude at work. Mrs. Heard has brought us her great sense of humor which allowed us to laugh with her when retelling some of her life experiences through encounters at work. She is a true asset to HRM and to Fort Dix," he concludes.

Serco Personnel Assistant for HRM, Mark Pieklak, shares Mr. Vannozzi's high opinion of Heard.

"I have worked with Pat Heard since my arrival at HRM. Soon after my arrival, I was asked to cross-train with the automation section. Pat Heard willingly trained me in the intricacies of the EMILPO system. Her knowledge, and her cheerful personality made my training enjoyable. As one of the veteran employees at HRM, Pat is cheerful, friendly, and one of the most indispensable members of the staff. Her cooking for birthday celebrations and other HRM parties will be missed! Pat Heard will be missed by all of her co-workers," Pieklak insists.

Monika Bunch, Administrative and Mobilization Plans Officer for HRM, reveals another important aspect of Pat Heard's highly-honed professional ethos.

"Pat's focus and priority has been [with] the Soldier," Bunch says. "Not only does she continuously display outstanding customer service but she always takes extra time to make sure Soldiers are squared away. She will be sincerely missed by both Soldiers and her co-workers," Bunch says.

Lead Human Resources Assistant Nevel Thomas has "known and worked with Mrs. 'Pat' Heard for a number of years," he relates. "Prior to her current job in HRM automation, she worked for several years in the HRM Officer/Enlisted Management which I lead" and her work ethic impressed him.

Thomas recalls that "Her vocabulary did not consist of the words 'it is not my job.' She was always willing and giving of herself to assist her co-workers and the military community. She worked until the job or mission was complete."

"Her family did not consist only of her spouse, children and grandchildren. Many of her co-workers and customers took her as 'Mom.' She was always ready to give a helping hand and listen. She gave sound advice and a sympathetic ear. She took care of all," Thomas recalls.

"On many occasions she would bring in food items and prepare a large meal for the entire HRM without asking for a dime. Her large heart and inner beauty made her find and give love and care to all."

"She has helped to enhance the career of many by displaying an attention to detail in taking care of records to ensure they're complete, resulting in many being promoted."

Thomas continues, "I still receive phone calls from many Soldiers asking that I convey their regards [to Mrs. Heard]. The military community is greatly indebted [to her] for her service. I will miss her and her can-do attitude and the warm smile she brings to every task."



Steve Snyder

**Patricia A. Heard**  
Human Resources Assistant  
Human Resources - Military  
Fort Dix



Steve Snyder

**HRM'S MAGNIFICENT SEVEN** -- Human Resources Military's Automation section worked with Pat Heard and included (l-r) Joseph Bennett, Heard (back row), Deborah Jones, Timothy Adams (back center), Mark Peiklik (kneeling at front), Gregory Miller and Geneva Sturdivant.



**RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE** -- HRM Director Henry Melon-Lopez presents Pat Heard with a certificate of achievement for her long and steadfast service here. "We will surely miss Pat Heard, not only for her outstanding professional performance but also for her great compassion and for the fact that nobody on Fort Dix ever cooked a greater breakfast," he quipped, later on.



**FLOWERS AND TEARS, TOO** -- Pat Heard's son-in-law, Capt. Gordon Bryant, came up all the way from Langley AFB in Virginia to present roses to his mother-in-law at her recent going-away luncheon at Club Dix.



**STILL THE ONE** -- Love Heard and Pat celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary this year. An airborne ranger with the Army, Love's duties carried him around the world with Pat at his side.



**SEASONED PROFESSIONAL** -- Pat at work as a military personnel clerk for the Military Personnel Directorate (MPD) at Fort Dix sometime around 1997.

In conclusion, Thomas considers it "a pleasure and a privilege to have met and worked with her. I wish her God's richest blessings in all her undertakings and, in her retirement, may she live a long, healthy life. I know she will continue working tirelessly and caring for all," Thomas observed.

Patricia A. Cunningham was born in Gadsden, Ala., around the middle of the 20th century. She attended George Washington Carver High School, spending much time singing in the chorus and playing the piano before graduating in 1968.

Patricia abandoned notions of attending Tennessee State U. when she met her husband-to-be, Love Heard. He was a career Soldier, an airborne infantryman who went on to serve in Vietnam. They married in 1968 in a special ceremony at his grandfather's house.

Pat discovered that she enjoyed living in the varied locations military families encountered. She says she loved life at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska, because of the locale's great natural beauty.

"I loved it," she recalls, "Loved the scenery and enjoyed the snow (never seeing any snow in Alabama). The

scenery looked like a postcard," she proclaims.

The Heards spent four years in Alaska, transferring to Fort Bragg next. In the meantime new family members began to arrive. Tarshia had been born back at Gadsden in 1969, Lovecia arrived in 1970 and Kiki came in 1973.

After serving at Fort Bragg, Sergeant Heard took on recruiting duties out of the Atlanta office in the mid-to-late 1970s, allowing the family to sample country life again by residing in small towns in the area.

From 1981 to 1984, the Heards were off to Frankfurt, Germany. Pat says she "loved it, enjoyed the people," noticed "the older folks dressed so nicely" and the "country was so clean you could eat off the sidewalk."

While Love was moving up the ranks with 5th Corps, Pat took her first job outside the home, working the telephone switchboard for the 228th Signal Co. from November 1981 to June 1984.

She liked it and says she got the job after checking with the civilian personnel, six job interview opportunities were waiting for applicants. Pat accepted her first offer.

The Heards also had the chance to see a little bit of the



**JOINING THE WORKFORCE** -- Pat Heard's first job outside the home (since marriage) came in Frankfurt, Germany where she worked the telephone switchboard for the chief of operations for the 228th Signal Co., German national Ina Quigstar, right above, from November 1981 through June 1984. Pat was in her early 30s at the time. Check out that hairdo.



**DAUGHTERS** -- Pat Heard poses with her daughters when they all still lived at home. Tarshia Sniders is on the left; she was born in 1969 in Gadsden, Ala. and she currently resides with her husband at Elmendorf AFB adjacent to Anchorage, Alaska. Next in line is Kiki Bryant, born in 1973, and now living with her Air Force captain husband and children at Langley AFB in Virginia. Pat's head crops up through the crowd, second from right. Finally, there's Lovecia Castillo, born in 1970 in Pemberton and still lives there. The Heards have eight grandchildren, three girls and five boys. And couldn't be happier.



**LIVING IN GERMANY** -- The Heards take roll call in front of their housing in Germany. Pat and Love bring up the rear while Kiki stands in front of her parents, Tarshia just right of her father and Lovecia in the darker dress in front at the right.

involved maintaining Soldier records and processing NCO-ERs. Pat also worked in the Card section when called upon and played a key role in mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers at the SRP site.

MPD was redesignated at Human Resources - Military (HRM) and from 2004 on Pat

has worked in the automation section, receiving numerous awards in the process.

Pat plans to move to Virginia to care for her ailing mother-in-law during retirement.

Taking care of people is a hard habit to break.

# Case Management Office relocates



**RIBBON CUTTING** — From left, Master Sgt. Steve Jeffrey, Walson Medical Support Element Senior Enlisted Advisor, Col. John Ekstrand, Walson commander, Staff Sgt. John Kanavy, Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge, Walson Case Management Pending Office, and Maj. Joyce Toriano, Officer-in-Charge, Walson Case Management Pending Office, cut the ribbon during the official opening of the new location of the Case Management Pending Office in Building 5407, Dec. 16.



**NEW BEGINNING** — Walson Case Management Pending Office employees cut the cake during the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the official opening of their new office location, building 5407, Dec. 16.



photos by Ryan Morton

**SHOW OF APPRECIATION** — Dolores Lindsay, Maj. Joyce Toriano, Maj. James Barker, Maj. Gabriel Pedrera, Deborah Kennedy, Holly Crisonino, Antoinette Fischer, Maria Cristina Bagabaldo, Lynn Conklin, Mike Lane, Christine Stinner, Capt. Laura Bowin, Carrion, Brenda Poullillo, Col. John Ekstrand, Walson Medical Support Element commander presenting the awards, Lt. Col. Rosette Brown-Irving receive Certificates of Appreciation awards at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Case Management Pending office, building 5407, Dec. 16. Also receiving honors from the WMSE commander, Col. John Ekstrand, in the form of Commander's Coins of Excellence were Staff Sgt. John Kanavy, Deborah Kennedy, Rochelle LaRose, and Capt. Anthony Hanna, who is not pictured.



**TOP PERFORMERS** — Col. John Ekstrand, commander, Walson Medical Support Element, presents the Case Management Pending Administrative staff; Gloria Ross, VA site coordinator, Maj. Joyce Toriano, Staff Sgt. John Kanavy, Sheila Ascencio, Ivan Valentin, Dadrian Parks, and Rochelle LaRose Certificates of Appreciation, Dec. 16.



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ACS serves all military branches of service, DoD civilian personnel and retirees.



**PASSING THE FLAME** — Lt. Col. Marie Morency, Deputy Commander of Health Services, Walson Medical Support Element, lights a candle to symbolize the change-of-responsibility of the Officer-in-Charge of the Case Management Pending Office from the former OIC, Maj. Joyce Toriano, left, to the present day OIC, Lt. Col. Rosette Brown-Irving, Dec. 16. Toriano will assume her new position as the Officer-in-Charge at the Joint Readiness Center. Brown-Irving moves over to her new position from the Warrior Transition Unit as the OIC, Case Management Section.

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# Military police train for success on Dix

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

The Tennessee volunteer spirit is alive and well as demonstrated by Soldiers of the 269th Military Police Company. Out of Murfreesboro, Tenn., the Soldiers have deployment orders for Iraq in the new year.

The selfless courage and Tennessee have been an inseparable combination since 1780 when Col. John Sevier called for "100 good men" and 200 answered his call to help keep the frontier safe.

Tennesseans have fought in every war in the United States of America since the War of 1812 and in the revolution that made America. Soldiers of the 269th come from a state where then Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson wrote to Davy Crockett, "Brave Tennesseans! We must hasten to the frontier, or we will find it drenched in the blood of our fellow-citizens!" Jackson later became the seventh president of the United States.

Soldiers from the Tennessee National Guard have been on alert since Sept. 11, 2001. After that disaster, the Guard secured local armories and patrolled the state capital and six major airports.

Then in March 2003, in support of the Global War on Terror, Tennesseans were some of the first units to cross into Iraq, fighting their way in and establishing Camp Bucca, the theater internment facility.

The 269th Military Police Company has been training to provide guidance to Iraqi police officers in a far different environment than those first Tennesseans found.

The 269th is a newly reorganized unit, but one with a long history in the state.

"The first sergeant and most of the senior NCOs have been to Iraq already," said Capt. Jim Rodgers. "A lot of new guys, 18-22 years old, not long out of high school, some in college are now in the company, they are doing well, are very motivated. We have a nice mix of youthful enthusiasm and experience."

With the number of young Soldiers who have not seen battle, Rodgers said, "That's why you drill a new squad. And you rehearse and rehearse. This is a good unit."

Since 2001, more than 10,700 Tennesseans have deployed for the war on terror.

These Soldiers continue the legacy of volunteerism that has been the hallmark of Tennessee since its inception.



Lisa Evans

**PURPLE INVASION** -- Soldiers from the 269th Military Police evade smoke mimicking an IED during mechanized operations in an urban terrain Dec. 9. Soldiers drove through a village evading stones and sticks as well as IEDs placed in the roadways. In this Humvee a Soldier watches the woods for snipers that fired at the convoy all along the route they took through the village and into the countryside.

## Texan military police headed for Iraq mission

Lisa Evans  
Public Affairs Staff

Three months ago Soldiers of the Headquarters Detachment 607th Military Police Battalion (USAR) out of Fort Worth are on their way this month to a long-awaited mission in Iraq.

"It's a relief, I've been waiting for years," said Sgt. 1st class Albert Liebowitz.

Sgt. Steven Petty feels a little different about the situation. "We'd have been back by now if we'd gone when they first alerted us," he said. But he added later, "I'm still in the Reserves because I met a lot of people, friends, and camaraderie. That's why I re-enlisted."

Spc. Troiano Hobbs said he had put off the police academy because of the wait, but that his wife had put off nursing school.

"My wife said 'finally.' She's been prepared to hold down the fort, working full-time with two kids. She didn't think she could work full-time with two children and go to school with me away," Hobbs explained.

Now all of them are eager to reach their goal. Because of the waiting, the 607th had time to do most of the training



photos by Sgt. 1st Class Albert Liebowitz

**ROLLIN' ROLLIN' ROLLIN'** -- Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Milbry, 42, from Grand Prairie, Tex., is attempting to overcome the rolling timber obstacle at the soldiers confidence course at Fort Dix.

before they reached Fort Dix, Roach explained.

"Our Soldiers train very hard. For 45 days we pushed our Soldiers really hard when we came here. We only had very few tests for our Soldiers to accomplish, so they have time to get used to living as Soldiers again," Roach said.

Concentrating on police transition team management, the 607th will take charge of battalion headquarters in Iraq. The battalion headquarters will be comprised of nine combat support military police companies, currently under the command and control of Lt.

Col. Brian Bisacre, commander of the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

These National Guard MP units will report to the 607th on the status of police stations, requests for equipment, training, personnel needs, and whatever else may crop up.

Petty said, "My role will be mostly logistical support. As the support section platoon sergeant I will pretty much do whatever's needed from anybody."

"The 607th Military Police Battalion, 11th Military Police

Brigade from Grand Prairie, Texas is comprised of the most professional group of officers, NCO's and Soldiers any commander would be proud to command," Lt. Col. Efrain de la Cruz, 607th Military Police Battalion said of his command.

"Due to the outstanding training and support provided by the Regional Training Center-East and First Army at Fort Dix, this unit is ready to deploy to Northern Iraq and assume the responsibilities and mission of commanding and controlling the largest Military Police Battalion in a combat zone," de la Cruz continued.

The battalion and most of the Soldiers are from Texas and though Roach is from Philadelphia, he attributes the success of training to Texas.

"My opinion is that others think we're more hospitable, family oriented because we're from Texas, because of the genuine nature of the people in the unit."

Roach said to some gentle teasing from the others, "All those people who talk to us say they get a great vibe around this unit. They feel a sense of family, a sense of open arms which make people want to train us."

Roach wanted their story told, their sense of family and their eagerness to do their job for the other units in Iraq, but he also wanted to thank Fort Dix.

"We'd like to thank all the elements of RTC-East (Fort Dix from Regional Training Center-East) to the UMAs (unit mobilization assistants) at First Army, all those folks from DPTMS (Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization & Security/Dor), NCO (Non-commissioned Officer) Acade-



**HANGIN' OUT** -- First Lt. Adam Stovall, 28, Coppers Cove, Tx., attempts to navigate the pole obstacle without touching any red part of the pole, while moving objects from one side to the other with help from soldiers on the ground.

my support, ECS (Equipment Concentration Site) 27th maintenance of vehicles and equipment, and all the people at transportation, especially Pat Lynch" Roach concluded.



**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** -- Soldiers from the 607th MP Bat. are attempting to negotiate the barbed wire fence and place C4 charges during a training exercise. The 607th has been training at Fort Dix for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Terry Eisenbrey

Calvary

## Warning to online shoppers

**ARMY CID LOOKOUT:** The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU) has teamed up with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to help Soldiers, family members and Army civilians stay safe while shopping online this holiday season.

As increasing number of consumers do the majority of their holiday shopping online and swindlers have taken notice and devised a wide range of schemes to capitalize on the relative anonymity of cyber space. The CCIU and FTC offer the following tips to help thwart these online crooks.

Check out the seller: If you have not used a particular online shopping site, do some independent research.

Call their phone number to verify that you can reach them if issues come up with your purchase.

If they don't have a phone number, you should take your business elsewhere. Also, search the Internet to see if anyone else has had a positive or negative experience with the shopping site.

Read return policies: Make sure the online shopping site has policies that meet your needs and expectations.

Some sites charge shipping and handling for returns, as well as a restocking fee.

Sites with unclear or questionable policies should be avoided.

Know what you're getting: Read the product description closely.

If name-brand items are sold at an extremely low price, they could be counterfeit or stolen. Remember the old adage: "If it's too good to be true, it probably is."

Don't fall for a false e-mail or pop-up: Legitimate companies do not send unsolicited e-mail messages asking for your password, login name, or financial information, but scammers do. Delete these e-mails without clicking on any links, since doing so could install spyware or other malicious programs on your computer.

Look for signs a site is safe: When you are ready to buy something from a seller you trust, look for signs that the site uses a secure connection - such as a closed padlock on the browser's status bar - before you enter your personal and financial information.

When you are asked to provide payment information, the beginning of the Web site's URL address should change from http to https or https, indicating that the purchase is encrypted or secured.

Secure your home computer: At a minimum, your computer should have anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall.

Security software must be updated regularly to help protect against the latest threats. Set your security software and operating system to update automatically.

Consider how you'll pay: Credit cards generally are a safe option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if the product is not

delivered or is not what was ordered.

Also, if your credit card number is stolen, you usually will not be liable for more than \$50 in charges.

Do not send cash or use a money-wiring service because you will have no recourse if something goes wrong.

Keep a paper trail: Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description and price, the online receipt, and copies of any e-mail you exchange with the seller.

Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges.

If a member of the Army family believes they have fallen victim to an online shopping scam, CID advises to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

For crimes occurring on an Army installation, contact the local CID office.

For crimes occurring elsewhere, contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) online at <http://www.ic3.gov>.

IC3 is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National White Collar Crime Center and serves as a clearinghouse for Internet crime complaints.

To learn more about online safety, visit the FTC's OnGuard Online site at <http://onguardonline.gov>

To learn more about the CCIU and CID Cyber Lookout, visit <http://www.cid.army.mil/CCIU.html>



# MILITARY MATTERS



Lisa Evans

**HOME SWEET HOME** — Military housing on Jupiter Street, built by United Communities, is a neighborhood for the servicemembers of McGuire Air Force Base and Fort Dix. Additional homes are currently under construction.

## Officials decide military housing allowance rates

Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden  
American Forces Press  
Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 2008 — Housing allowances for military members will go up an average of 6.9 percent in 2009, Defense Department officials announced today.

The increase comes to an average of about \$95 per month across the board for the 950,000 servicemembers expected to draw basic allowance for housing, or BAH, in 2009, but some servicemembers will not see any increase at all, and others will see less than that the average increase, Susan A. Brumbaugh, director of the Defense Department's BAH program, said in a Pentagon Channel interview.

"We did see some decreases in some areas for some pay grades," she said, "[but] it's not across the broad spectrum. We also saw some significant increases across the board, so it's a balance."

"In some years, you'll have a rental market that is very strong in some areas," she explained, "and in others areas, you'll have local rental markets where there's not a lot of housing available."

So it changes. It can fluctuate from year to year. Every year you'll see some [areas] that go down and some that go up, and this was a very typical year."

Those who do notice their area's BAH is lower than last year's shouldn't worry, Brumbaugh said, because an individual rate protection law is in place to protect those who already are under a rental agreement.

So, if BAH rates in their area are lower Jan. 1 than Dec. 31, the previous, higher rate applies.

Servicemembers who change duty stations after Jan. 1 will be affected by the new, lower rates for that area, she explained.

"If [the military member's] status didn't change, his rate will not go down," she said. "Individual rate protection is in place. It's in the law, and it's not going to change."

The local market economy serves as the basis for BAH rate changes. Military housing offices from each installation begin collecting data from the local rental market as early as January each year.

The offices research the current rates for two-bedroom houses, townhouses, single-

family homes and all the different standards and profiles for homes, Brumbaugh explained.

Typically, rates are higher in larger, more heavily populated metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Rates in rural areas usually are more stable, and although they may increase to some degree, the rise doesn't have the same impact as in larger cities, she said. "The military housing offices are looking at adequate and appropriate dwellings we would want our military families living in," she said. "They don't look at a small, two-bedroom house and say, 'We could put an E-5 with a family in that.' They look at it as something that would be appropriate for that particular profile."

The BAH program is designed to benefit servicemembers, but it's not designed to pay 100 percent of their housing expenses, Brumbaugh said.

Although she's never met a servicemember who is pleased with his or her BAH rates, she said, the program is very well designed, and once servicemembers understand the process for which the rates are set, they're fairly satisfied.

**FORT DIX  
WANTS YOU**

**TO BE A  
VOLUNTEER**

Call Army  
Community Service  
at 562-2767  
to find out more.

## VA banks on direct depositing for vets

WASHINGTON — Every month, 730,000 veterans or survivors look for their compensation or pension checks in their mailboxes. Nearly all receive them, but theft and mail delays cause problems for some veterans, which can be prevented by direct deposits.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is urging those veterans and family members now receiving paper checks to join nearly 3.1 million others whose VA payments are safely deposited electronically. "VA is teaming up with the Treasury Department in a new campaign to protect government beneficiaries against the theft of funds and of their identities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Veterans earned — and rely on — the financial support we send them every month."

I urge them to help VA ensure they get those funds reliably and safely by signing up for direct deposit."

Peake cited several easy ways to sign up for direct deposit — calling toll-free at (800) 333-1795 or enrolling online at [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org). Veterans, and family members who receive VA payments, also can sign up by contacting a VA regional benefits office or their financial institution. Information about direct deposits will be included in VA's monthly compensation and pension envelopes throughout 2009.

The VA Secretary urged veterans to remember that direct deposits relieve worry about mail delivery being delayed by severe weather or natural disasters. The deposits also eliminate trips to banks or credit unions to deposit checks, while providing immediate access to money at the same time each month.



Sgt. 1st Class Albert Liebowitz

**UP UP AND AWAY** — Sgt. Christopher Ford, 27, River Oaks, Tex. successfully swings over an obstacle and to help get his fellow soldiers over without touching any danger areas.

## Training manual released

John Harlow  
TRADOC

**FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan.** (Dec. 16, 2008) — The Army released the new field manual FM 7-0, Training for Full Spectrum Operations, at the Training General Officer Steering Committee conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 15.

Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, introduced the new manual which replaces the 2002 edition of FM 7-0, Training the Force.

"Today's full-spectrum operations environment demands more from our men and women in uniform than ever before, and nothing is more important than training to ensure their success," Caldwell said. "This manual will have a direct impact on our Soldiers — codifying our current doctrine directly into training the full breadth and

complexity of today's missions, to include offensive, defensive and stability operations."

This is the first time the Army has synchronized the manuals for operations and training, officials said.

"Now is the right time to release the new training manual," said Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams, director of the Combined Arms Center-Training. "We've been at war a little over six years, and our last training manual was published just after 9/11."

A lot has changed since then. The operational environment has changed, and we now have a force that is the most combat-experienced in the history of the country. There are many factors that went into the need to update FM 7-0.

In 2008, the Army has released three important field manuals:

— FM 3-0, Operations, changed the way the Army operates, with the focus of the Army being on offensive, defensive and stability operations.

— FM 3-07, Stability Operations, went into detail on how the Army will perform its mission when called upon as a stabilizing force.

— FM 7-0 provides training guidance to prepare the Army to train the way it will fight. "FM 7-0 is almost entirely driven by FM 3-0," Abrams said.

"This is the first time in recent doctrinal history that our Army's capstone operations manual FM 3-0 has been at the forefront of our training manual. They have been related before, and FM 7-0 has embraced the operational concepts in some degree or another, but in this particular case, the starting of FM 7-0 was about six months behind FM 3-0."

"The two writing teams have been nested from the beginning so that for the first time, all the operational concepts and the most important concept, that we are a full-spectrum Army, means that offense, defense and stability

operations are our core concepts as an Army," Abrams continued. "These concepts are now nested throughout our training manual so that we train to be a full-spectrum Army, not just in name, but in reality."

FM 7-0 challenges leaders to train as they will fight — train as a full-spectrum force, but not lose sight of the first priority of the Army, which is to fight and win the nation's wars.

FM 7-0 sets out to change the Army mindset.

The manual states that the Army cannot return to its pre-9/11 focus of training for offensive and defensive operations in major combat operations.

The manual's four chapters address the breadth and depth of Army training concepts — the "what" of Army training. The Web-based Army Training Network addresses the "how" of Army training.

It provides examples of concepts in FM 7-0: training lessons, examples and best practices for implementing the 7-0 concepts; and solutions to training challenges.

"We are using emerging technologies and leveraging the power of the Web."

We are going to take what has been previously published in FM 7-1, Battle Focused Training, and we're going to take those concepts and put them on the Web as the Army Training Network," said Abrams.

"It's going to have the same format and same fundamentals you would see in FM 7-1 in terms of techniques for conduct of training management. What we want to show with the power of the Web is that we can get constant updates from the field and input on best practices."

FM 7-0 is designed to help develop an expeditionary Army, composed of Soldiers and civilians, experienced and knowledgeable enough to be comfortable with operating anywhere along the spectrum of conflict in any type of operation, under any conditions, TRADOC officials said.

Armed Forces  
Bank Anapa

# Announcements

## Chapel Services

562-2020  
**Sunday Services**

**Protestant**  
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Catholic**  
10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**Gospel**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Sunday School**  
10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

**CCD**  
9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**Chapel 5 - Bldg. 5950**  
**General Protestant Service**  
6:30 p.m.

**COL-Chaplain's tent**  
**Hour of Power Protestant**  
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

**Catholic**  
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

**Mormon**  
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

**Jewish**  
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

**Islamic Prayer Room**  
Open 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
Room 24

## Religious Activities

**Christian Men of the Chapel**  
**Prayer Breakfast**  
Fourth Saturday of each month  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Christian Women of the Chapel**  
Meets every Tuesday  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
at the Chapel and the fourth Tuesday at Buttonwood Hospital.

## Holiday Services Schedule

**Christmas Concert**  
Friday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.

**Chanukah Party**  
Sunday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Catholic Children's Mass**, 5 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Protestant Candle Light Service**, 7 p.m.

**Christmas Day Catholic Mass**, 10:15 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Catholic Mass**, 6 p.m.

## Fort Dix Fire Department

Santa will be spreading cheer through the housing area on a Fire Truck.

Dec. 21, starting at 4 p.m. Bring the little ones out for candy. Listen for them Sunday afternoon.

The firefighters and Chief Officers of Fort Dix Fire & Emergency Services want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

## Holiday Thought

Great wisdom not applied to action and behavior is meaningless data. Efficiency is doing things right. Effectiveness is doing the right things.

Catherine Wano  
Training Support Center  
5411 Alabama Ave, Fort Dix  
PH: (609) 562-3340  
DSN: 562-3340  
FAX: (609) 723-1072  
catherine.wano@us.army.mil

## Fort Dix Fire Department

**Fort Dix Fire Department**  
Bldg. 5639 562-5691  
**Registration Hours:**

**Tuesday**  
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Wednesday & Thursday**  
Noon to 5 p.m. and  
6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Friday**  
11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Saturday**  
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

## Holiday Photo Cards

Create unique holiday cards and more on the Sony Picture Station. Do-it-yourself! Instant, high quality prints are easy to create and affordable. Sizes are available from wallet to 8" x 10". Personalize your prints with wording, borders, picture collages, scrapbook pages, cards, calendars, and more.

Just slip in the card from your digital camera, or a photo CD, and you're ready to print. Scan some old photos and burn them onto a CD, or just copy onto a CD from your memory card. This machine does it all.

## Contemporary Ceramics & Mosaic Studio

The Contemporary Ceramics Studio offers a large selection of bisque pieces to choose from to decorate and paint. All finished pieces are food, microwave, oven, freezer, and dishwasher safe. We have lots of idea books, traceable designs, tools, and an experienced staff to help you create a finished piece you will love. Mosaics are a great way to express yourself with colorful glass for home decor.

## Krafty Birthdays

Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to two hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by to select the craft and make payment. Treat your loved one to a party they will remember.

## CREATE-A-CRITTER

Adorable Critters to stuff yourself! It's easy & fun! Chose from an assortment of Critters: Bears, Puppies, Unicorns, Frogs, Tigers and a whole lot more! You can even add an outfit! Create your own designs for T-shirts and canvas backpacks. Stop in today and have tons of fun stuffing your own plush animal or take one home to stuff or give as a gift. Critter Birthday Parties also available.

## Fort Dix Thrift Shop

Bargains galore! 50 percent off on many selected items. Visit the store for special holiday bargains.

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 23**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please call (609) 723-2683 for more details.

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Please call (609) 723-2683 for more details.

## Arts & Crafts

**Bldg. 6039 562-5691**  
**Registration Hours:**

**Tuesday**  
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Wednesday & Thursday**  
Noon to 5 p.m. and  
6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Friday**  
11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

**Saturday**  
9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

## Holiday Photo Cards

Create unique holiday cards and more on the Sony Picture Station. Do-it-yourself! Instant, high quality prints are easy to create and affordable. Sizes are available from wallet to 8" x 10". Personalize your prints with wording, borders, picture collages, scrapbook pages, cards, calendars, and more.

Just slip in the card from your digital camera, or a photo CD, and you're ready to print. Scan some old photos and burn them onto a CD, or just copy onto a CD from your memory card. This machine does it all.

## Contemporary Ceramics & Mosaic Studio

The Contemporary Ceramics Studio offers a large selection of bisque pieces to choose from to decorate and paint. All finished pieces are food, microwave, oven, freezer, and dishwasher safe. We have lots of idea books, traceable designs, tools, and an experienced staff to help you create a finished piece you will love. Mosaics are a great way to express yourself with colorful glass for home decor.

## Krafty Birthdays

Arts & Crafts offers Krafty Birthday Parties! Parties include up to two hours of party room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, with many exciting projects to choose from. When making party reservations, please make sure to stop by to select the craft and make payment. Treat your loved one to a party they will remember.

## CREATE-A-CRITTER

# HONORS AND AWARDS



photos by Wayne Cook



**TOP SUPPORTERS** — Lt. Col. James Erdie, brigade operations and training officer, RTC-East, presents Timothy Konopka, top left, Guy Foy, top right, Training Management Division mobilization coordinators, and Donna Cestaro, office automation Food Service Office, Directorate of Logistics, left, Certificates of Appreciation Dec. 11, for outstanding support to the RTC-East mission, at building 5513. Below, John Piper, chief, Training Management Division, center, receives a plaque from the RTC-East brigade operations and training team Dec. 11 at building 5513. Presenting the plaque are from left to right, Lt. Col. James Erdie, brigade operations and training officer, Master Sgt. Chris Overman, brigade operations and training NCOIC, Maj. Rich Schau, brigade assistant operations and training officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Watkins, brigade assistant training sergeant.



Ryan Morton

**GRADUATION TIME** — Class 002 of the Fort Dix Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense School graduates, Dec. 16. Graduating members are: Sgt. Anita Yanaons, Sgt. James White, Sgt. Adrian Sherfield, Pfc. Steven Tomblin, Spc. Marcus McHaney, Sgt. Shannon Bajak, 2nd Lt. Jason Partin, Spc. Ryan Phibbs, Sgt. 1st Class Jay Kofoed, Sgt. James Smith, Lt. Col. Keyla Lluveras, Sgt. Laura Ditchkoff, and Sgt. Danielle Lindsay.

**IRAQ OR BUST** — First Lt. Jose Allende, commander, 271st Postal Detachment, and Sgt. 1st Class Ulises Marrero, detachment NCOIC, above right, show off their unit's Yellow Banner during a ceremony at Doughboy Gym Dec. 12. The 271st hails from Puerto Rico and is deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Rodney Howard, commander, and 1st Sgt. John Shipe, below right, 342nd Military Police Company, out of Columbus, Ohio, display their unit's Yellow Banner during a ceremony at Doughboy Gym Dec. 12. The 342nd trained for duties as a Police Transition Team while at Fort Dix. The unit is deploying to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Suluki

Hanover Dental



photos by 1st Lt. Antonia Greene





# Martial artists mix it up in ring melees

Steve Snyder  
Public Affairs Staff

A pleasantly nostalgic aura invaded the Griffith Field House Dec. 12 as 18 combatants squared off in mixed martial arts fights called "cage" matches because of the apparatus surrounding the ring.

The Friday night event was well attended and included an appearance by Lt. Col. William Ayers, deputy post commander, who introduced the night's action.

Friday's fights weren't the most exciting I've seen but did offer an interesting introduction to what might be called a new genre on the fistic and rasslin' scenes.

**Mixed martial arts bouts are a strange breed of ring combat, combining skills used in boxing, wrestling and karate to disable opponents.**

Depending on the rules and skill levels of participants, the fights can be torrid or tepid.

Friday's bouts, at least the five I saw, contained elements of both.

I had mixed feelings upon entering Griffith Field House. I've always been a boxing "purist," seeing no reason to mix pristine pugilism with bone-breaking karate blows or

the phony hype prevalent in professional wrestling. I remembered back in 1976 when Muhammad Ali took on a giant Japanese wrestling wunderkind, Antonio Inoki, in a mixed bout in Tokyo. Most of their match was spent with Inoki on his back kicking at Ali's legs. And Ali threw less than a dozen punches. Rules may have cramped both men's styles. One stipulated that Inoki could only throw a kick if one of his knees were on the ground. The result was a real yawner.

But on that same fight card, Andre the Giant threw Chuck Wepner, "the Bayonne Bleeder," into the third row in the third round to claim victory in an exciting bout that looked very much like it had been fixed.

Not to digress further, Friday's first bout saw 187-pound Juan Garcia trounce Bill Newton, winning a unanimous decision in a cruiserweight contest. The next fight had 150-pounder Harry Sankey impressively pounding Jason Rodriguez before it was stopped at 1:35 of the second round. Sankey's punches packed power, something not seen during the rest of the night.

The third bout featured 173-pounder David McMahon win-

ning by something called a guillotine (which I take to be a chop to the neck) in just 28 seconds of the first round over Dennis Martinez. Again, I missed the punch or chop, electing to quench my thirst with an excellent bottle of Dundee Ale (costing only two bucks) and thus being somewhat removed in the line of sight from the powerful blow.

Bout four had welterweight Doug Miller win going away in another unanimous decision, downing Evan Chielski 30-27, 30-27 and 29-28 on the judges' cards.

An accidental eye poke ended the fifth bout in a no contest with Thiago Carfi suffering the poke and Ray Brady delivering it in the second round of their welterweight melee.

I split after the fifth bout. These mixed martial arts (MMA) require a bit of skill to be exciting. I concluded, after seeing much wrestling and mauling in the clinches. But one understands why. Amateurs unsure of their prowess take big risks in getting racked up. I still think the Army should get back into boxing smokers. Unlike tackle football, which was popular during the years of the military draft in the 1950s, boxing with headgears and big gloves does not result in very

many serious injuries capable of sidelining Soldiers from duty very long.

Messing with karate moves and combining them with punching and wrestling holds seems a recipe for high injury rates if adopted by the military services.

But boxing was always different.

One saw some great fights at Fort Carson, Colo., in the mid-1970s. A cocky youngster would step into the ring and quickly realize that his opponent had enough power and finesse to really hurt him (without the ensuing injury). But with his whole brigade watching, he couldn't very well back down. The fighter's quandary ended in some great fights, hard-fought and exciting.

Facing adversity in the ring is a great character builder. So let's buy some Dundee Ale and lace on the gloves.



Steve Snyder

**MIXING IT UP -- Ray Brady (facing camera) and Thiago Carfi, above, trade punches prior to their bout being declared "no contest" because Carfi suffered an accidental thumb to the eye in the welterweight contest. At the far left, a caged ring awaits those daring enough to enter it. On the immediate left, Muhammad Ali tries to draw a head on Japanese wrestler Antonio Inoki during their mixed match at Tokyo in 1976. Ali and Inoki fought a draw with Inoki spending much of the night futilely kicking air while Ali threw less than a dozen punches all night. Ali remained champ until 1980.**



Steve Snyder

## Sports Shorts

### Griffith Field House

Saturday & Sunday  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday - Friday  
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Combat Fitness Challenge

Maximize the benefits of standard physical fitness training at the Griffith Field House.

The Combat Fitness Training Challenge, every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. is an intense military-style group workout given by certified Griffith Field House personal trainers

and Army master fitness trainers.

The class includes running, military-style calisthenics and drill exercises, cardio kickboxing and more.

Call (609)562-4888 for more information.

### Pool Closed

The Fort Dix Indoor Pool will be closed from Nov. 24 through Dec. 22 for maintenance.

Call (609)562-2808 for additional information.

### Holiday Fitness

Don't pack on the pounds this holiday season, be slimmer than Santa this year. The

Griffith Field House is hosting its Holiday Fitness Fun Program to help you stay fit. Classes started Nov. 3 and run through Jan. 2.

The program consists of 27 aerobic/fitness classes. Sign up at the Griffith Field House and win prizes for completing the program.

Call (609)562-4888 for more information.

### Basketball

Sign up today for the upcoming Intramural Basketball Season at the Griffith Field House. Anyone interested can register a team, or register as a free agent.

Call (609)562-3961 or (609)562-4888 for more info.

## New Year's Eve Bowling Party!!

**\$30 per Person!**

**\$15 for children under 11!**

**Doors open at 2000**  
**Includes all of the Following:**

- Unlimited Bowling 2100-0100
- Free Shoe Rental
- Party Favors, Hats, Horns, Sparkling Cider for Toasting
- Food Buffet items:

Baked Ziti, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Assorted Lunch Meat and Cheese Platter, Rolls, Cookies, and Coffee

**DON'T MISS IT!**

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Ft. Dix/McGuire Bowling Center • 6054 Dougherty Loop, Ft. Dix NJ • (609) 562-6895

2009 Fort Dix Outdoor Recreation Skiing & Snowboarding Trips

Hit the slopes with Fort Dix Outdoor Recreation! Whether it's your first time on the slopes, or a Military Family looking for a weekend getaway, we have just what you're looking for!

**One Day Trips/Ski & Board**

**Bear Creek - Macungie, PA**

January 10  
February 7  
February 28  
March 14

**Blue Mountain - Palmerton, PA**

January 24  
March 7  
March 21

**Price: \$75**  
(includes group lesson, equipment, and transportation)

Bear Creek Trips meet at Outdoor Rec at 1pm and depart 1:30pm  
Return approximately at midnight

Blue Mountain Trips meet at 12:45pm and depart 1:15pm  
Return at approximately 12:30am.

**Price Variations to base cost of Trip**

\$16 if you don't want a lesson  
\$8 if you have your own equipment  
\$8 if you plan to provide your own transportation \$8  
Add \$10 if you want to snowboard or snowblade  
Add \$25 to add tubing to your trip.  
\*Tubing only - \$30\*

For additional information, or to make reservations, call (609) 562-6887, or stop by Outdoor Recreation at 6040 Dougherty Loop, Ft. Dix NJ, 08640-0001, 9am-5pm

**FORT DIX WANTS YOU**

**TO BE A VOLUNTEER in your community**

Call Army Community Service  
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to find out more information.

Phoenix

Tri-State

# Local lay-leader aids Katrina victims

**Wayne Cook**  
Public Affairs Staff

Thuan and Dieter Domski, members of the Protestant congregation at the Main Chapel, traveled to the hurricane battered coast of Alabama to minister to the needs of a community of predominantly Vietnamese residents Nov. 7 through 18.

Thuan, herself Vietnamese, was contacted by a former co-worker, Thi Nguyen, whom she had worked with in Philadelphia but is now a social worker in Southern Alabama. Nguyen asked Thuan if she knew of anybody who could speak Vietnamese and would be willing to go to Alabama to help the residents of Bayou La Batre recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

"I could not think of anyone else to ask but then thought, what about me? We made arrangements and then drove down," said Thuan.

"When we got there it was a small town with a pretty big Vietnamese population. They are fishermen. Most of them have been in the United States for 20 or 30 years now but because they are always out to sea they have not learned to read or write in English. This became a big problem after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf

Coast. Because they cannot communicate in English they could not file for the governmental benefits like everybody else," she said.

"The community still has obvious signs of the devastation like fishing boats washed up on the roadsides. Many of the townspeople couldn't get medical help because they couldn't talk to the doctors and nurses. They are trying to rebuild their lives but have huge roadblocks in their way. Many of them wonder if there is any hope for them. When the hurricane struck it left most of them with nothing. Because they cannot speak English they couldn't ask for assistance," said Thuan.

While in Bayou La Batre Thuan met with the residents of the town and provided spiritual guidance and solace for those in need.

She led many fellowships and spiritual services, some at which she witnessed townspeople making spiritual commitments.

"It was such a blessing. I was invited in many of their homes and got to see six adults and two children accept the Lord as their Savior. I shared my faith and was able to offer it as a gift to them for hope," she said.

Thuan established a friendship with a pastor and his wife

from Mobile, Alabama. The pastor then went with his wife and four other couples from his congregation to Bayou La Batre to minister to the residents.

At times she was an interpreter and chaper for some of the townspeople as she and Dieter took them to appointments at the hospital.

She also helped some of them fill out paperwork to become citizens so they could claim some of the same benefits as others affected by Katrina.

"We were able to help a lot of people get the paperwork they needed to get help," said Thuan.

"I saw the spiritual hunger of the people while I was there. They are already poor in the area of possessions and wealth and I saw a lacking in spiritual areas as well. No one was opening the spiritual door for them and offering them hope. I kept sharing the message of salvation with those who wanted to hear it. I never saw so many Vietnamese people who are poor and destitute in one area since I left Vietnam. These people have been devastated by Katrina, they will need a lot more help and understanding from others, locally and from across the country, to rebuild and recover from the past," Thuan said.



courtesy photo

**SPIRITUAL AID** — Thuan Domski, right, a lay-leader with the Protestant Congregation at the Main Chapel, prays with Tran Thi Cam Van, a resident of Bayou La Batre, Alabama during a ministry trip to the hurricane stricken area Nov. 7 through 18. Three years after the storm roared through the area, the community is still devastated from the destruction wreaked by Katrina.

## Tax tips for charitable giving

The spirit of giving seems to grow during the holiday season, and many donations are made to charitable causes at this special time of year.

The IRS reminds taxpayers to keep some important points in mind when making donations with the expectation of deducting them on a federal tax return.

Taxpayers can deduct donations only if they make them to a qualified tax exempt organization.

"Taxpayers can search for many charitable organizations online at IRS.gov with Publication 78," said IRS spokesperson Gregg Semanick.

"Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals.

Generally, organizations will be able to tell you whether they are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code and eligible to accept tax-deductible donations," he said.

Semanick added that it is necessary to file Form 1040 and itemize deductions on Schedule A to receive a charitable contribution deduction.

Be sure to keep good records, too.

To deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record, credit card statement or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks, bank or credit union statements. Bank or credit union statements should show the name of the charity and the date and amount donated. Credit card statements should show the name of the charity, the transaction posting date and the amount donated. Prior law allowed taxpayers to support their donations of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation. Those types of records are no longer sufficient.

For all donations of property, including clothing and household items, obtain from the charity, a receipt that includes the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and a reasonably-detailed description of the donated property. If a donation is left at a charity's unattended drop site, keep a written record of the donation

that includes this information, as well as the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation and the method used to determine that value.

To deduct charitable contributions of items valued at \$250 or more you must have a written acknowledgment from the qualified organization.

To deduct charitable contributions of items valued at \$500 or more you must also complete a Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions, and attach the form to your tax return.

To be deductible, clothing and household items donated to charity must be in good used condition or better.

A clothing or household item for which a taxpayer claims a deduction of over \$500 does not have to be in good used condition or better if the taxpayer includes a qualified appraisal of the item with the return. Household items include furniture, furnishings, electronics, appliances, and linens.

More information about charitable donations can be found in IRS Publication 526, available online at IRS.gov, or requested by calling, toll-free, 1-800-TAX-FORM.

## Faith is...

Giving  
because  
of  
what  
God  
has  
given  
to us.

## Have a Generous Christmas Season

Chap. (Col.) David Forden

I like Christmas! I like it when I see people take the time to move beyond the notion of receiving and start to think about giving.

I like the words of news anchor Eric Sevareid, who proclaimed, "Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves."

In the weeks ahead, radio and television stations will be giving us all valuable advice about Christmas. They will be recommending to us what we should buy, where to buy it and how much we will be able to save when we buy it.

In this consumer driven world it is important to remember that the first Christmas story was centered around poor people and God's gift of love to the world through those with few earthly treasures.

The 19th century columnist George Matthew Adams concisely defined what he believed the heart of Christmas was about. He said, "Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart." (The Christmas Heart)

We are in a wonderful time of year and an amazing time in history. There are all kinds of opportunities to be generous and loving to those who are in need.

As Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... I say unto you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

May you have a Generous Christmas Season!

# Dixans spread holiday happiness



photos by Ryan Morton

**IN THE SPIRIT** — Soldiers from the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), above, load a van with boxes and bags of toys from their toy drive, Dec. 12. They collected hundreds of toys from Soldiers, which were taken to Operation Santa Claus. NCOA instructor, Staff Sgt. Lindsay Vickery, orchestrated the drive which began kicked off before Thanksgiving and garnered much participation from Soldiers throughout the academy. Also displaying holiday spirit were the young people of the Fort Dix Gospel Worship Service Youth/Teen Ministry, left, who performed the 2008 Christmas Pageant, "The Gift of Christmas Presence" at the Fort Dix Main Chapel, Dec. 13.



Jennifer Chupko

**GIVING AND RECEIVING** — Members of the Fort Dix Youth Center Keystone Club, above, display the baby clothes they collected to donate Dec. 12, while Pfc. Brandon Vanwagoner, below, gets help loading children's furniture into his vehicle Dec. 16. The furniture was donated to military families by the Lajobi company and Operation Home Front.



Jennifer Chupko



courtesy photo

**Honorary Warrant Officer Don Tracy, Honorary Sergeant Major Ken Mahan, Honorary Colonel Dennis Dougherty, Dan Deweever, Assistant Scout Master, Troop 75 Boy Scouts of America, and Lt. Col. Chris Sands, commander, 3rd Battalion 312th Training Support Regiment, are on hand to accept a donation of phone cards from the BSA. Deweever helped raise the funds necessary to purchase more than 22,000 international phone card minutes. The phone cards were donated to members of the New Jersey National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team currently deployed to Iraq and to Soldiers and family members of the 3rd Battalion, 312th Training Support Regiment, mobilized at Fort Dix.**

## Scouts donate gift of gab to deployed troops

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion 312th Training Support Regiment were awarded phone cards by Dan Deweever, Assistant Scout Master of Troop 75, Boy Scout Association (BSA) Dec 8. Deweever helped organize a monetary collection at his work in order to purchase international phone cards for Soldiers and their families to keep in touch this holiday season.

The drive raised \$1,285, which translates into over 22,000 international phone card minutes. The majority of the phone cards were sent to Soldiers in the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), New Jersey Army National Guard currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The remaining phone cards were given to Soldiers and families

of the 3rd Battalion, 312th Training Support Regiment, mobilized at Fort Dix. Two 3-312th TSBN Soldiers have sons currently serving in Iraq and two other 3-312th TSBN Soldiers have spouses who are deployed in support of the War on Terrorism.

"Dan's dedication to the Boy Scout values is shown here with his devoting time to organizing the phone card drive. Due to his efforts and the generosity of his fellow workers at BNY Mellon Bank, many Soldiers will be able to contact their loved ones over the holidays," said Lt. Col. Chris Sands, commander, 3rd Battalion 312th Training Support Regiment.

The recognition took place during the Troop 75 meeting held at the Cranford Methodist Church.

## Tips keep family pets from harm this season

Jennifer Chupko  
Public Affairs Staff

The holiday season is an exciting and stressful time of year for the entire family, including the pets. By following a few tips, pet owners can reduce the risk of stress on an animal and help keep Fido, Fluffy and the family safe and happy.

### Gifts for your pet

Give toys that are too big to be swallowed. Don't give anything with a string attached, and remove bells or squeakers from toys, as all these things could be swallowed.

Remember, the best gifts you can give your pet during the holidays are play and quiet time with you.

The best gift for a cat is a ping pong ball in the bathtub; brown paper grocery bags are fun too! Although it is recommended you hide both before bedtime, there is nothing noisier at 3 a.m. than a cat smacking a ping pong ball in the bathtub!

The best gift for a dog is a long walk. It also makes an excellent New Year's resolution.

### Food

Maintain your pet's regular diet. Table scraps from a holiday feast, especially ones covered in gravy or containing poultry skin, can cause severe gastrointestinal upset. Do not give the bones from poultry of any kind to your pets, as they can splinter, form sharp points and get stuck in the throat, gums or the roof of the mouth, causing severe problems. Dispose of all bones carefully so that pets cannot get them.

Do not give your pets garlic, onions, macadamia nuts or alcohol — they are toxic to both dogs and cats. And never feed your pets chocolate, as it contains a heart stimulant, which can cause a severe heart arrhythmias or seizures if ingested in large doses.

### Space

Give your pets a quiet place to go, especially if your normally quiet home is filled with guests and lots of noise. Watch pets when doors are opening and closing frequently, as dogs and cats can easily slip out.

### Decorations

Keep pets away from tinsel. Dogs and cats like to eat it, and tinsel (particularly plastic tinsel),

can cut the intestines and cause severe injuries. If you suspect your animal has ingested tinsel, contact your veterinarian at once.

Electrical cords pose another hazard, particularly to puppies and kittens who may try to chew the wires. Take some extra time to tape down or cover cords to help prevent shocks, burns or more serious injuries.

Ornament hooks, when swallowed, can damage the mouth or esophagus and should be kept out of reach.

Dough ornaments, because of high salt content, are not good for pets. Ingestion can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and in severe cases, seizures.

Mistletoe and holly berries, as well as poinsettia plants, can be poisonous to pets (especially cats), causing severe upset stomachs. Pine needles can irritate or sometimes puncture a pet's intestine.

### New Year's Eve

Dogs should not be taken to community fireworks or other noisy events. If you can hear fireworks from your home, keep your pet indoors, preferably in a quiet, safe area. Noise-phobic dogs will often try to hide in a closet or beneath a desk; encourage this behavior by offering food treats in the safe haven, and praise your dog for seeking shelter; this can be a very effective strategy for dogs frightened by noises.

Play with your pet instead of stroking him to fend off fireworks fears. Play a game with your pet when he shows early signs of anxiety, like pacing or trembling, this can distract him from the stressor and, in the long term, teach him to associate that same stressor with positive things such as play and treats. Petting or soothing him is likely to make no difference — and, in fact, it may reinforce that attention-seeking that comes with nervousness.

Think carefully before giving a dog or a cat as a gift. Animals require a lifetime of care and expense.

Make sure the recipient is fully prepared and wants to accept the responsibility of pet ownership.

If you are ready to add a new dog or cat to your household this holiday season, please visit a local animal shelter to find that new best friend and save a life at the same time. Burlington County Animal Shelter is always looking for new pet parents. For more information call them at (609) 265-5073. There are many animal rescues in the area specializing in certain breeds or animals. They can be found on the internet. Beware of indiscriminate breeders that charge a fortune for so called "designer dogs".



<http://lepoodecfe.ms11.net/clipart>